



State Senator
Tupac A. Hunter

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Senator Hunter’s Legislation Would Let
Voters Decide on Smokefree Worksites

Because the issue of smokefree worksites is so important, and to date the Legislature has been unable to agree on this issue, Senator Hunter has introduced a bill to put the issue before the voters to decide once and for all. Senate Bill 469 would let the voters decide if all worksites should be smokefree, and it would not carve out exemptions for restaurants, bars, or casinos. Last year the Senate passed a version of the bill that included restaurants, bars, and casinos in the smoking ban. However, many legislators, fueled by special interest groups, disagreed with those provisions and the legislation failed.

Smokefree worksites would mean that workers would not have to choose between a paycheck and their health. According to the American Cancer Society, secondhand smoke is the third leading preventable cause of

death in the United States, killing 38,000 to 65,000 nonsmokers every year. This is an unnecessary risk that we are forcing workers to take. It is unfair to say that the health of workers in certain professions is worth protecting, but that others are worth risking. Every worksite should be included in the smokefree ballot proposal.

Evidence shows that smokefree laws do not harm restaurant sales. New York City went smokefree in 2003 and saw new jobs created in the city’s bars and restaurants. Florida also saw similar results when it went smokefree, and reported that retail receipts for taverns and bars that served food remained unaffected by its smokefree law.

It is time for the Legislature to put aside the petty politics and stop

bowing to the influence of special interests. Senate Bill 469 will allow Michigan citizens to finally decide the issue of smokefree worksites.



Senator Hunter Honors Fathers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank fathers, grandfathers, and father figures for all you do for the children in your lives. No matter how important our jobs are, there is no job that is more important than being a Dad. Our children rely on us to provide for them, love them, encourage them, and to have fun with them. On behalf of the State of Michigan, I salute all fathers for who you are and all that you do! I hope you had a great Father’s Day this year!

Senator Hunter’s son Jalen visits his father
in the Senate Chamber.





State Senator Tupac A. Hunter

*Serving the 5th District Constituents in
Detroit, Dearborn Heights & Inkster*

Hunter Legislative Update Report



How to Contact Me

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MICHIGAN STATE SENATE
TUPAC A. HUNTER
STATE SENATOR • 5TH DISTRICT

Dear Friend,

As you well know, our state is facing severe economic challenges right now, and I know that they are being felt in every community across our state. Please know that the health, safety, and well-being of all of my constituents continues to be my first and foremost priority. I will continue my efforts to see that important programs and services that benefit my constituents continue receiving state support. Even in lean times, we still must provide vital and necessary services to our citizens.

I am sending you this newsletter to update you on several things that I am working on in Lansing. There is still much more work to be done, and I will continue working hard to protect the health, safety, and quality of life for all citizens across this great state.

As always, please feel free to contact my Lansing office toll-free at 1-866-262-7305 if you have any thoughts or questions you may want to share.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Very truly yours,

State Senator
Tupac A. Hunter

Talk Time with Tupac

Senator Hunter has scheduled three coffee hours to give district constituents an opportunity to personally share their ideas and concerns.



Detroit: Mary's Grill, 20804 Plymouth Road

All coffee hours are held on the 1st Friday of the month from 10-11 AM.

Inkster: McDonald's, 27125 Cherry Hill Road

All coffee hours are held on the 2nd Friday of the month from 10-11 AM.

Dearborn Heights: McDonald's, 6412 North Telegraph Road

All coffee hours are held on the 3rd Friday of the month from 10-11 AM.

You are invited to attend whichever coffee hours work best for your schedule. If you are interested in joining me, please call my office toll-free at 866-262-7305 to confirm your attendance. Please be sure to leave a message if you call after hours.

Senator Hunter Honored With Legislator of the Year Award

Senator Hunter was recently honored by the Hearing Loss Association of Michigan with their Legislator of the Year Award, in recognition of his advocacy on behalf of the hearing impaired.

Senator Hunter introduced Senate Resolution 44, which received Senate approval in May 2009, calling on Congress to enact the federal Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act. This proposed federal act would provide a \$500 income tax credit for the unreimbursed costs associated with the purchase of a qualified hearing aid. The credit would be limited to individuals over the age of 55 and to certain dependents and could be claimed every five years.

Senator Hunter is also working to pass legislation at the state level to help citizens with hearing impairments. He has introduced Senate Bill 403 which would give a state tax credit for the purchase of hearing aids. The bill would allow a credit for the taxpayer who buys a hearing aid for himself or herself, for his or her spouse, or for his or her

dependent. The tax credit would be equal to the amount of the hearing aid. The credit would become a refund if the amount of the credit for the purchase exceeds the tax liability for the taxpayer in that tax year. The portion of the tax credit that exceeds the tax liability would be refunded to the taxpayer.

Senator Hunter has also sponsored a two-bill package to provide insurance coverage for audiological screening, diagnosis, treatment and costs of hearing aids for individuals who suffer from hearing loss. Senate Bills 178 and 179 will ensure that all health care organizations in Michigan provide coverage for those who are certified as deaf or severely hearing-impaired by a licensed physician or audiologist.

Hearing loss is a treatable condition and no adult or child should go without the ability to hear because of financial concerns. Senator Hunter will continue working hard to see that these bills are signed into law so that our citizens can get the assistance they need to improve their quality of life.



Senator Hunter accepts the Legislator of the Year Award from Audrey Pleasant, Vice President of the Hearing Loss Association of Michigan. The award was presented during the group's 4th Annual Day at the State Capitol on May 13, 2009.



Senator Hunter outside the Senate Chamber with Mrs. Lillie Lester on May 20, 2009. Mrs. Lester, from Inkster, was the first woman in the United States to serve as a Sergeant at Arms when she served in that position in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1964-1976.

Senate Approves Foreclosure Legislation

The Michigan Senate has approved legislation that will give new tools to homeowners trying to avoid foreclosure. These bills finally put into law provisions that Democrats have been fighting for over the past several years. Some homeowners can avoid foreclosure if they just have a little more time, and these bills will give stressed homeowners that time to work out their finances. As the Minority Vice Chairman of the Banking and Financial Institutions Committee, Senator Hunter fought to include provisions in the legislation that would allow homeowners the additional steps needed to remain in their homes.

Senator Hunter also served as a member of the conference committee that worked out the compromise between the House and Senate that would include an important judicial enforcement provision to hold lenders accountable. Elements of the foreclosure protection package – House Bills 4453, 4454, and 4455 – include:

- Home loans that qualify for modification will qualify for judicial intervention if the lender chooses

- not to cooperate to modify payments.
- Lenders will be required to send a notice of foreclosure to all homeowners. Currently, the lender has no obligation to notify the borrower.
- Borrowers may request a meeting within 14 days of receiving a foreclosure notice and, once a request is made, the lender agrees to stop any foreclosure proceedings for 90 days.

Doing all that we can to help families avoid foreclosure is better for everyone, and this is another step toward economic recovery for our communities across this state.



State and Local Programs Can Help With Job Search and Family Needs

The Chrysler and General Motors bankruptcies have made a tough job situation even harder for many communities across the state. Because many people have had steady work over the years, they don't necessarily know about the programs that exist to help if they do lose their job.

There are many state and local programs that can help with a job search, job training, resume writing, and also with household expenses and mortgages. Below is information on programs that serve job seekers and their families in the Fifth Senate District.

DETROIT

United Way of Southeastern Michigan

The United Way runs the 211 Help Line which connects people with helpful services just as 911 connects people with emergency services. By dialing 211, people can be referred to agencies that can help with job training, rent, mortgage payments, and the cost of food or prescriptions. 211 is a lifeline for people in difficult situations trying to navigate their way through local and state programs. Phone: 211, or visit the website at: www.uwsem.org/.

DELEG Career Education and Workforce Programs

This Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth website provides phone numbers and programs for veterans, programs for people transitioning from welfare to work, specialized job placement programs, and assistance for dislocated/laid off workers. Visit the website at: www.michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-1679---,00.html.

Focus: Hope

Focus: Hope offers job training and education programs through their centers of opportunity. The organization also offers food assistance to families in need. Phone: 1-313-494-5500, or visit the website at: www.focushope.edu/default.htm.

Wayne County Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program

This program offers help to people no matter what point they are at in the foreclosure process. The program can determine a family's options, and in some cases can negotiate directly with banks and lenders for the family. Phone: 1-313-833-2948 or toll-free: 1-877-693-6199, or visit the website at: www.fightmortgageforeclosure.com/.

State Department of Human Services (DHS)—Wayne County DHS can help with many needs

including medical needs, utility assistance, and food assistance. The Central Office is located at 2929 Russell St. in Detroit. Phone: 1-313-396-0200.

Detroit.com

This website allows people to search jobs within Detroit. Job alerts can also be sent to job-seekers. Visit the website at: detroitjobs.detroit.com/DTJ/browse_jobs_results/Michigan/143,84,12/MI-Detroit-area/browsejobsnew.html?zmc=detroitjobs&spc-detroitjobs.

Detroit Workforce Development Department

This office helps provide qualified workers to local employers through cost-effective, high-quality employment, training, and education services in partnership with businesses, community-based organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies. Phone: 1-313-876-0674, or visit the website at: www.ci.detroit.mi.us/Departments/DetroitWorkforceDevelopmentDepartment/tabid/81/Default.aspx.

Simply Hired—Detroit

This website lists job postings and charts tracking unemployment trends in Detroit. The website also provides information about companies and their employees. Visit the website at: www.simplyhired.com/a/local-jobs/city/l-Detroit,+MI.

Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development, Inc. (LASED)

This organization serving Latinos and residents of Southwest Detroit offers programs and houses a variety of human service agencies to help citizens. Phone: 1-313-554-2025, or visit the website at: www.lasedinc.org.

INKSTER

JobServe—Inkster

This website lists jobs available in Inkster and can be found at: www.jobserve.us/Inkster_MI_Jobs.htm.

Simply Hired—Inkster

This website lists jobs available in Inkster and can be found at: www.simplyhired.com/a/local-jobs/city/l-Inkster,+MI.

Department of Human Services (DHS)—Inkster

The State Department of Human Services branch office is located at: 2700 Hamlin Blvd. You can reach the office by calling 1-313-277-4800.

MichiganWorks! Agency—Inkster, Dearborn Heights

The Dearborn office of MichiganWorks! is the closest office to Inkster and Dearborn Heights. It is

located at 6451 Schaefer Rd. in Dearborn. The office is on the second floor. Call 1-313-945-8380. The office is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The MichiganWorks! Agency website can be found at: michiganworks.org/.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS

Simply Hired—Dearborn Heights

This website lists jobs available in Dearborn Heights and can be found at: www.simplyhired.com/a/local-jobs/city/l-Dearborn+Heights,+MI.

JobServe—Dearborn Heights

This website lists jobs available in Dearborn Heights and can be found at: www.jobserve.us/Dearborn_Heights_MI_Dba_Jobs.htm or phone: 1-313-563-4457.

STATE WEBSITES FOR JOB SEEKERS

Michigan Talent Bank

This site lists more than 15,000 new job openings monthly and allows people to post their resume. This website allows you to search for jobs in cities throughout Michigan. Phone: 1-888-253-6855 or visit the website at: www.michworks.org/mtb/user/MTB_EMPL.EntryMainPage.

Michigan Civil Service Commission (MiCSC)—Detroit Job Postings

Job seekers can visit the Detroit Regional Office or use the online office to search by job category or county. Phone: 1-313-456-4400, or visit the website at: www.michigan.gov/mdcs/0,1607,7-147-6876_8030---,00.html.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

This website offers information regarding how to claim unemployment benefits and other related information/documents. The website also provides links to assist with filing for unemployment. To file a claim by phone call 1-866-500-0017. To inquire about a claim call 1-866-500-0017, press 3. You can also visit the website at: www.michigan.gov/uia/0,1607,7-118-26831---,00.html.

Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC):

The Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center

This office provides counseling, training, research and advocacy for new ventures, new start-up businesses, and existing small businesses. Phone: 1-313-967-9295, or visit the website at: www.michiganadvantage.org/.